

SENATE RESOLUTION 819—AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE SENATE TO PROTECT AND EXPAND THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAMS

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 819

Whereas Social Security has served as a cornerstone of economic security for millions of individuals in the United States since the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) was signed into law by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1935, when he declared, "It is, in short, a law that will take care of human needs and at the same time provide the United States an economic structure of vastly greater soundness";

Whereas the Social Security system of the United States ensures basic retirement security and financial stability, provides disability insurance that helps keep disabled workers and their families afloat in case of work-limiting disability, and ensures continued support of survivors;

Whereas, with the establishment of the Supplemental Security Income program, signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon in 1972, Congress built upon the bedrock protections included in the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), assuring "that elderly, blind, and disabled people would no longer subsist on below-poverty incomes" and disabled and older workers, whose health prevents them from attaining the work history needed for protection under Social Security, are able to maintain basic dignity;

Whereas Social Security is an earned benefit that workers in the United States pay into with each paycheck, providing a guaranteed level of financial stability in retirement that cannot be assured with private pensions or personal assets alone;

Whereas proposals to fundamentally weaken the funding or guaranteed benefits of Social Security include—

- (1) shifting Social Security to a discretionary program;
- (2) raising the retirement age;
- (3) privatizing the Trust Funds; and
- (4) eventually ending the Social Security program altogether;

Whereas data from the Bureau of the Census indicates that—

- (1) without Social Security benefits more than 20,000,000 more individuals in the United States would live in poverty; and
- (2) approximately 1 in 4 individuals aged 65 and older in the United States have little to no income aside from Social Security; and

Whereas more than 70,000,000 seniors, people with disabilities, their dependents, and the dependents of deceased workers rely on Social Security and Supplemental Security Income to meet basic needs and live in dignity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, in recognition of the long history of the Social Security

system of the United States assuring basic financial security for millions of workers and families—

(1) celebrates the economic stability Social Security has provided for generations of families in the United States;

(2) affirms that Social Security is a solemn promise to the people of the United States that should be upheld for generations to come; and

(3) believes Social Security and Supplemental Security Income should continue to be mandatory spending, so as not to jeopardize the certainty and the financial security that the people of the United States have come to expect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 820—HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, NOW KNOWN AS THE RESERVE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 820

Whereas the Reserve Officers Association was founded on October 2, 1922, by the General of the Armies John J. "Black Jack" Pershing and other veterans at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the founders of the Reserve Officers Association, who were veterans of World War I, believed that the United States was vulnerable to returning to the state of unreadiness that preceded World War I and that they needed to prevent the same level of unreadiness in future conflicts;

Whereas the Reserve Officers Association was chartered by President Harry S. Truman, one of the early members of the Reserve Officers Association, in the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Reserve Officers Association of the United States", approved June 30, 1950 (64 Stat. 312, chapter 431);

Whereas the congressional charter established the Reserve Officers Association, now known as the Reserve Organization of America, "to support a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security";

Whereas the Reserve Organization of America is the only all ranks, all services, military service organization for the Reserve and National Guard, also known as the Reserve components, in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, the Reserve Organization of America celebrates 100 years of serving the servicemembers and veterans of the uniformed services and the Reserve components, their families, and reserve employers; and

Whereas the Reserve Organization of America was instrumental in the adoption of the Reserve Forces Bill of Rights and Vitalization Act (Public Law 90-168; 81 Stat. 521), which, among other measures, established the Selected Reserve in each service, provided adequate fiscal and equipment support for the Selected Reserve, and established assistant secretaries for reserve affairs and designated a general or flag officer responsible for reserve affairs for each armed force: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the Reserve Organization of America is a respected advocate for national security and readiness;

(2) honors the vital role the Reserve Organization of America has played throughout the organization's 100 years of service in strengthening the strategic and operational

role of the Reserve components of the United States military; and

(3) supports the Reserve Organization of America's focus on the readiness of the Reserve components and the care of those who serve in the Reserve and National Guard, their families, and veterans of the Reserve components.

SENATE RESOLUTION 821—CONDEMNING THE ARREST OF CARDINAL ZEN IN HONG KONG, AND REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE SENATE TO SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY, AUTONOMY, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONG KONG

Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 821

Whereas, in May 2022, Hong Kong authorities arrested Cardinal Zen, a 90-year-old bishop emeritus of Hong Kong and outspoken critic of China's ruling Communist Party, on spurious charges, accusing him and four others of violating China's national security by "colluding with foreign forces," as well as for allegedly failing to register a fund established to assist people arrested in the mass anti-government protests that began in 2019;

Whereas China imposed a so-called "national security law" in 2020, effectively crushing Hong Kong's opposition movement, overhauling its electoral system to provide Beijing with even more control, silencing free media, and crippling its once-vibrant civil society;

Whereas hundreds of protestors, activists, and former opposition lawmakers have been arrested since the "national security law" came into force;

Whereas Hong Kong is devolving into an increasingly repressive society where no one resisting government tyranny is safe, including religious leaders and communities;

Whereas, in 2022, the United Kingdom announced that two of its Supreme Court judges would no longer sit on Hong Kong's top court, as the threat to civil liberties and lack of judicial independence had made their role untenable;

Whereas Cardinal Zen and five prominent pro-democracy campaigners have pleaded not guilty in court in Hong Kong for failing to properly register a humanitarian fund they established to help people arrested in anti-government protests in 2019; and

Whereas the story of Cardinal Zen is only one of many such instances of religious persecution and infringement on democratic freedom in China and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the arrest of Cardinal Zen by the Hong Kong authorities at the behest of the Chinese Communist Party;

(2) calls for all charges to be immediately dropped against Cardinal Zen;

(3) reaffirms religious freedom as a fundamental right; and

(4) urges the Chinese and Hong Kong authorities to cease targeting Hong Kong's civil society actors and to immediately release and drop all charges against all political prisoners who have been unjustly detained and charged.